



**DRAFT MINUTES**  
*Brookfield Conservation Commission*  
**Brookfield Town Hall Room 129**  
**Wednesday, February 3, 2016**  
**7:00 PM**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Dew called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM, with the following in attendance:  
**Present:** A. Dew, Chair; J. Bronn, Vice Chair; S. Landis, Secretary/Treasurer; M. Carmody, Commissioner; J. Blick, Commissioner; M. Dew, Commissioner  
**Absent:** R. Blessey, Commissioner  
**Also Present:** Ex-Officio Member Selectman Sue Slater; Recording Secretary Emily Cole Prescott
2. **MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING: 01/06/16** – M. Dew asked that clarification be added to state on the first page, under discussion of Guests and Public Comment: “. . . a resident who lives across from Eriksen Farm rides horses and stores hay in the barn . . .”  
**M. Carmody made a motion to accept the minutes, as corrected. A. Dew seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.**
3. **GUESTS AND PUBLIC COMMENT:** There were no guests and public comments at this time. Ex-Officio Member Sue Slater thanked Chair Dew for the time at last month’s meeting spent explaining the Commission’s responsibilities, goals and initiatives.
4. **CORRESPONDENCE:** A. Dew noted receipt of re-appointment letters from the First Selectman’s Office. A. Dew reminded the Commissioners to visit the Town Clerk’s Office to be re-appointed.
5. **TREASURER’S REPORT:** S. Landis reported the remaining budget amount. S. Landis asked that A. Dew share records of recent purchases with her, to be sure her records match what has been spent.
6. **CURRENT PROJECT REPORTS:**
  - a. The Nature Center – S. Landis – S. Landis stated that she has given the tenant permission to take down the old apple tree, which is on the left when pulling onto the property. The tenant is going to enhance the trails, trim and prune. He will be making a more definitive trail to the outcrop location and possibly add more benches. S. Landis stated that the two, current house doors need to be replaced. M. Dew agreed to help with the replacement doors. S. Landis stated that the tenant does much for the property. S. Landis stated that the doors should have storm doors. She also mentioned that the doors should be in keeping with the theme of the house.
  - b. Happy Landings – J. Bronn – A. Dew stated that Brookfield is being praised for the management of the field, and the work it has done with the CT DEEP to restore the field. She

stated that the Commission has two years of work remaining on the project, to remove the knapweed, which is an invasive species. Matt Melillo, a resident who lives in the area, has asked to restore some of the trails on the field. A. Dew shared M. Melillo's email with the Commission. A. Dew stated that three or four people will be volunteering, and a waiver will need to be signed before the volunteers may start. **M. Carmody made a motion that the Conservation Commission is in favor of three to four residents clearing a trail in the woods at Happy Landings. J. Blick seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.**

c. Burr Farm –M. Carmody – M. Carmody stated that residents have been visiting the property.

d. Williams/Gurski Open Space – J. Bronn, M. Dew – No report.

e. 18 Junction Road – S. Landis, M. Dew – S. Landis expressed the need to test the air for radon. She stated either the Commission may test or may ask CT Radon to complete the test for \$175.

f. Gurski Homestead – R. Blessey, A. Dew – A. Dew stated that the Public Works Department has done a lot of drainage work. The old system has been dug out, as the former drainage system was not properly hooked into the drainage system. The pipe has since been attached, and the catch basin has been corrected. The water now drains properly. The sump pump has also been tied into the drain pipe. A. Dew stated that she had previously sent pictures of the property and the proposed work, asking for approval from the CT State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) of the work, from which she did not hear back. A. Dew stated that her next step is to search for potential funding to work with a consultant on the creation of a long-term plan. A. Dew stated that the tenant will be buying sconces to have installed by Hantsch Electric in the rental house on site.

g. Eriksen Farm Open Space –M. Carmody, M. Dew – A. Dew stated that she has coordinated with the Danbury Housing Authority, regarding the matter of the rental amount. The Commission noted that the house looks good.

h. Old Bridge Sanctuary – J. Bronn – No report.

i. Deer Management – M. Dew – M. Dew reported that to date only one deer has been killed. He is waiting to hear more information from other hunters regarding kill reports.

*J. Bronn entered the meeting room at 7:30 PM.*

## **7. OLD BUSINESS:**

a. List of Potential Projects for Community Organizations and volunteers – There was no discussion and no motions made regarding this agenda item.

b. Trail Guide/Map: Draft & Publication of Document – A. Dew stated that she has started to compile pictures for the trail map. M. Dew asked that A. Dew send out the information which the Commission currently has so the Commissioners may review it before the next meeting. A. Dew stated that she will send the information to J. Bronn, who can then send it to the Commissioners for their review. **M. Dew made a motion [that the Commission] get in touch with Mr. Farrell (Trail Guide Designer) and that the Commission allocate \$1,500 to get started on this project. J. Blick seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.**

## **8. NEW BUSINESS:**

a. 16-17 FY Budget Proposal Submission – A. Dew noted that this item had been discussed at the last meeting. She briefly reviewed the Commission's proposal.

A. Dew noted that she has spoken with the Milford Enforcement Officer who is in the process of organizing a training class for Land Use Commissions' responsibilities. A. Dew stated that she has offered to use Room 133 in the Brookfield Town Hall for this training. She asked the Commissioners if they would be willing to attend an evening training event.

b. Town Hall/Police Station Drainage Project – A. Dew briefly explained the purpose of the proposed project. She explained that the primary purpose of this step of the project is to find out more information, asking the Inland Wetlands Commission to work in conjunction with the Conservation Commission to explore the possibility of this project. The purpose of the proposed project is to better manage the currently over-loaded storm drainage from the Town Hall and the Police Station parking lots, in the area of the Still River Greenway, which drainage currently enters a sediment pool, which had required continual maintenance, but had not been maintained for many years. Now, the run-off is draining directly into the Still River. A. Dew stated that she has spoken with S. Hayden of the Northwest Conservation District and with engineer, Steve Trinkaus. A. Dew explained that she has an intern scheduled to assist with the grant funds oversight and project coordination. M. Dew noted that perhaps an intern should not be overseeing such a large project. A. Dew explained that she foresees the estimated first phase of the project for engineering expenses at \$5,000. The next phases of the project would need to be determined after the engineering work has been complete. M. Dew questioned the high expense of the estimated project costs, and asked whether the clean-out work could be completed by the Public Works Department. A. Dew explained that the purpose of this project is to create a system by which the stormwater is cleaned. She noted that this project could be an example of how to handle stormwater in the Town and throughout other areas of the State. M. Dew expressed the need for more information. **J. Blick made a motion to send a letter to the Inland Wetlands Commission to work with the Inland Wetlands Commission to set an example of how water can be managed to improve water quality into the Still River. A. Dew seconded the motion, and it carried, with M. Dew opposed, and M. Carmody, S. Landis, A. Dew, J. Blick and J. Bronn voting in favor of the motion.**

c. Housatonic Valley Association Stewardship Program – A. Dew stated that this item is for the Stewardship Program by HVA, which would bring volunteers to the Still River site to plant and do other work. **J. Blick made a motion to write a letter to the Housatonic Valley Association to approve of the Youth Stewardship Program. M. Carmody seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.**

A. Dew mentioned that she has received information on registration for CT Trails Day, and J. Blick shared some of her ideas for kids' activities. She also noted the option of having multiple events ongoing on different properties throughout the day.

**9. ADJOURNMENT: M. Dew made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 PM. J. Blick seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.**

\*\*\*\*Please contact Stephanie Landis: 203-775-4545 if you cannot attend the Meeting\*\*\*\*  
**\*\*Next regular meeting scheduled for March 2, 2016\*\***